

REMARKS

Claims 2-8, 12-17, and 27-31 remain pending. Claims 2-5, 7-9, 12-14, 27, 29 and 31 are rejected. Claims 15-17 are allowed. Claims 6 and 30 are objected to. Applicants cancel claim 9 and amend claims 4 and 8. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the remarks and amendments herein.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Applicants have canceled claim 9 and amended claim 8 to include the limitation of a **“reciprocating type” expansion engine**. The cited reference Kueck discloses a **turbine type gas expansion engine referred to in Kueck as turbo generators 13, 13a, 15 and 15a** (see Figure 1 and col. 3, lines 11-12). “Turbo generator 13 comprises an expansion turbine 25 having a radial inlet 26 and an axial outlet 27.” (col. 2, lines 21-25 and Figure 2). Therefore, Kueck clearly discloses using a turbo expander type expansion engine to drive a generator and not a reciprocating (piston) type expansion engine for driving an electric generator in the turbo generator 13. Please note the discussion of “block type thermal power stations” 16 and 16 a. “Each block type power station consists of a gas engine powered by [the] natural gas supplied from low pressure line 11, and a generator driven by the gas engine to generate electricity.” (Kueck, col. 3, lines 21-24). The gas engine of the block power stations is an internal combustion engine, but it is not a reciprocating type gas expansion engine. This is clear in that the gas supplied to the internal combustion engine of thermal power block 16 comes from low pressure line 11 and therefore the engine driving the generator of power block 14 is not an expansion engine because it is not powered by high pressure inlet gas.

Applicants disclose a **reciprocating type gas expansion engine** powered by high pressure inlet gas used to drive a generator (see application specification Figures 1 and 2A and p. 3, lines 14-25). Claim 4 has been amended to include the limitation “reciprocating type” expansion engine. Claim 8 has been amended to replace “piston type” with “reciprocating type” for clarity. Independent claims 12 and 27 were previously amended to include the limitation “reciprocating type expansion engine.” Kueck has no disclosure of a reciprocating type

expansion engine. Therefore, Kueck does not include each limitation of claims 4, 8, 12 and 27. Claims 2-3, 5-7, 13-14, and 29-31 are dependent on their respective independent claims 4, 8, 12 and 27 and incorporate their limitation of a "reciprocating type expansion engine" and therefore are not anticipated by Kueck.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note and appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 15-17 are allowable.

Applicant : David B. Watson, et al.
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CONCLUSION

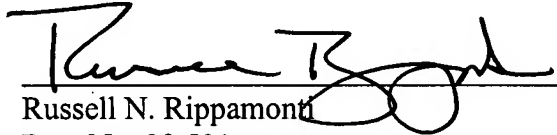
Applicants request removal of the 102(b) rejection of the claims and an early Notice of Allowance of all pending claims. If the present Application is not allowed and/or if one or more of the rejections is maintained or made final, Applicants hereby request a telephone conference with the Examiner and further request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney to schedule a telephone conference.

No additional fees are believed to be due. Please apply any deficiencies or any other required fees or any credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing the attorney docket number shown above.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

4/24/07



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